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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM
STATE SCHOOL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1923

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL.

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman*, Newton.

ELLERTON JAMES, *Secretary*, Nahant.

MARY STEWART SCOTT, Brookline.

GEORGE W. GAY, M.D., Newton.

PATRICK J. LYNCH, Beverly.

HERBERT PARSONS, Newton.

Officers for 1922-23.

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M.D., *Superintendent*.

NEIL A. DAYTON, M.D., *Assistant Superintendent*.

MILDRED A. LIBBY, M.D., *Senior Assistant Physician*.

ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D., *Senior Assistant Physician*.

GENEVIEVE GUSTIN, M.D., *Assistant Physician*.

RAYMOND A. KINMONTH, M.D., *Assistant Physician*.

JOHN A. NASH, D.M.D., *Dentist*.

CLARA S. BLOIS, *Matron*.

SARA M. CLAYLAND, *Chief Clerk and Treasurer*.

PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD, *Head Teacher*.

ALICE RAYMOND, *Head Social Worker*.

HAWLEY P. FOSTER, *Social Worker*.

MADELINE BARLOW, *Psychologist*.

RUTH A. PROUTY, *Psychologist*.

IRA H. BENNETT, *Chief Operating Engineer*.

FREDERICK T. W. BOYD, *Foreman Mechanic*.

FRED HEFFRON, *Head Farmer*.

Medical Consulting Specialists.

Dr. GEORGE T. VOGEL, *Laryngologist*.

Dr. H. B. C. REIMER, *Oculist*.

Dr. JAMES M. GALLISON, *Surgeon*.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To His Excellency the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Mental Diseases.

The trustees of the Wrentham State School have the honor to submit their report for the seventeenth year of the institution, established by the Acts of 1906 for the care of the feeble-minded.

While hardly to be noted of any one year, because it is a development rather than a revolution, it is unmistakable that the place of an institution for the care of the feeble-minded in relation to the community, by which and for which it is maintained, has undergone marked change even within the period of this school's existence, and may truly be said to still be in progress. One feature of that progress has previously been commented upon in our reports. It is the understanding of the school as a place of training rather than custody. Not that this conception of the dual obligations of the institution for this class of the state's dependents was original with the establishment of Wrentham, for it had earlier origin even though the design for this school distinctly bore the marks of the constructive rather than the simply detentive purposes, but that there has been a clearly discernible shift of emphasis from restraint to training in the service to the mentally handicapped.

Actually this notion of the purpose of the state institutions is no more than a re-assertion of the initial thought of that American pioneer on the treatment of the feeble-minded, Dr. Howe, and that has been upheld and exemplified in the high-minded policy of the man who has supplied to the state and the world his many years of statesmanlike leadership, Dr. Fernald.

There has been secured a steady advance in policy towards the ideals of these recognized leaders. But the public thought has had to come through the develop-

ment from the regard of the state's duty as one of removal of the mental unfortunates from the community to a place of confinement, up to the making that place of restraint the seat of a thorough going training of such faculties as the charges could be found to possess with a view to their usefulness and happiness and, — in the latest development of policy, — their possible return to the community with a measure of equipment for self-care and contribution to the common fund of social well-being.

The other broadening concept of such a school takes in the use of it as a radiating point of instruction and service to the community in extra-institutional help of the handicapped. The medical staff of the school comes to have another concern than that as to the care and treatment of those who are committed to it. The thought of its members reaches out to, and their service comes to include, a direct contact with the people of the Commonwealth. There is established the very tangible service of the clinic, which finds its welcome place in centres of population. The talent and professional and practical training of these experts turns to account in interpretation of public purposes and in direct exposition of the personal application. By example and discussion the professional resources of the school come to the service of the community.

It is this service of the Wrentham State School which marks the latest step in the direction of greatest possible usefulness to the Commonwealth. It stimulates the greater self-reliance of the cities and towns in dealing with the problems of retardation. It aids in prevention of future burdens to the state and so it makes all the more valuable the maintenance of an ample and highly expert staff at the school. The school comes more to be regarded not as an institution set apart but as an integral part of the community.

A great gain has come to the school in the removal of the defective delinquent older boys to the Department at the State Farm. Such a school as ours suffers enormously by the presence in its population of defectives of a distinctly criminal type. That fact was realized when they were present, before the special institution was provided. It is realized even more fully by the contrast their absence supplies.

Up to the present time the transfers of the defective delinquent number only 27 boys. That is a small fraction in an institution with 1,300 inmates. But the relief is out of all proportion to the number transferred. It is realized even beyond what was predicted that this sort of charge is a menace to the property of the state, a disturbance to the regular order, an undue absorbent of the attention of the administration, an upsetting of the morale, an interference and an influence the mischief of which does not depend upon numbers. The worst effect is that it makes it difficult for the orderly feeble-minded boys or girls to live their own lives and to gain the value that the school may be to them.

This presence, so far as Wrentham is concerned, has still to be spoken of in the present tense. The boys removed were all 17 years of age or older, owing to that being the minimum age for admission to Bridgewater. The distinction by physical age is theoretically unsound in relation to persons who are taken into the state's care on the basis of a mental age. It is practically unwarranted as experience with the same sort of boy under the age limit arbitrarily fixed painfully proves. Given, say, a nine year mental age plus a criminal slant and it does not matter perceptibly whether it is implanted in one of a physical age of fourteen or eighteen. The outcome, in every item that makes the misplacement in a school like this objectionable, is not different in its menacing and disturbing effect. If what has been accomplished both for the boys themselves who are proved to be rightly placed in a special colony, and for the school which has profited greatly by relief from their presence, justifies the new classification, it may positively be taken as showing the importance of making provision for the physically younger boys in the same institution with the older ones or elsewhere. They are as badly and as evidently out of place in the feeble-minded school as the older ones.

The same instructive experience points the way to the segregation of the defective delinquent girls. There is the same background of disturbance and evil influence in their case, the same daily experience which compelled the removal of the boys. There is, as well, the same logic of gain to the disturbing girls to be secured by placing them where discipline can be more rigid and where the complex of a

criminal disposition with a mental inferiority can have a specialized attention. As trustees of the state's interest in the school and the community problems it has to deal with, we again urge the removal of these girls, and all the more strongly because we observe the gain that has come from the partial carrying out of the plan. It is essential that there should be complete detachment of such a colony from the school for the feeble-minded. In our judgment it should be completely away from the neighborhood, so that there could be no possible intercourse either of inmates or attendants.

The development of a social service as one of the school's activities is occasion for special mention. It is another linking of the institution with the community in a practical and helpful way. While it is carried on at present by only two social workers it accomplishes great benefits, not only in supervision of the increasing number of paroled boys and girls but in the study of possible placements and the bringing of the people interested in the inmates to an understanding of the state's purposes and an actual cooperation in carrying them out. Every paroled inmate is, in a sense, an instrument of education to the neighborhood, at least, the value of such instruction being dependent in no slight degree upon the character and quality of the social workers who supply the link between the public and the school.

Attention is particularly called to the superintendent's report with comment upon the addition of two industrial buildings and an assembly hall, the gain of which to the school merits even stronger appreciation than he voices.

The pressing physical need of the school is quarters for the employees. The rational living of workers in such an institution is too obviously an interest of the Commonwealth to need argument. The sort of people it is desirable to secure and retain for the service of the school will only be had when desirable living conditions are provided. The present accommodations are far from sufficient. In institution language, it is sixty beds short. The single room is an unquestioned requisite; and when the planning of employees' quarters provides rooms no larger than 8 x 12 feet with a single closet, the intention that they shall have but one occupant is apparent. It is the present fact that such rooms as these are the crowded quarters of two instead of the none too generous abode of one employee each.

The trustees have with fuller reason than ever before to record their appreciation, in behalf of the commonwealth, of the leadership in administration of a superintendent it has been gratifying to see come to national recognition as a progressive director of an institution and as an authority on the public's policy in his field. The recognition extends with full warrant to the medical staff and the general corps of those in positions of responsibility in the school.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman.*
ELLERTON JAMES, *Secretary.*
HERBERT PARSONS,

PATRICK J. LYNCH,
MARY STEWART SCOTT,
GEORGE W. GAY, M.D.,

Trustees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1923.

The movement of the population has been as follows:

	Males	Females	Totals
Remaining in Institution Nov. 30, 1922	382	805	1,187
Admitted within the Year	166	173	339
Whole Number of Cases within Year	548	978	1,526
Dismissed within the Year	47	119	166
Discharged	39	105	144
Died	8	14	22
Absent from School Nov. 30, 1923	111	114	225
Remaining in Institution Nov. 30, 1923	452	815	1,267

Admissions during the Year Dec. 1, 1922 to Nov. 30, 1923.

	Males	Females	Totals
Under 5 years	7	4	11
5 to 10 years	31	19	50
10 to 15 years	52	40	92
15 to 20 years	26	49	75
20 to 25 years	1	20	21
25 to 30 years	1	4	5
30 to 35 years	—	3	3
35 to 40 years	—	1	1
40 to 45 years	1	—	1
Totals	119	140	259

A high standard of health has been maintained during the year, the only variation being that caused by an epidemic of measles. This disease is always a serious one among children of low physical resistance and the recent epidemic proved no exception in this respect, inasmuch as there were 155 cases, all of which were among the low grade, hospital type of children.

The schools have been successfully maintained throughout the year with increasing interest on the part of both teachers and pupils with the result to be desired — that of progress by the children in all departments of the school.

The curriculum is arranged to meet the needs of the children and, therefore, has a wide range, embracing the most rudimentary sense training for the lowest grades on the one end to a modified 6th grade work at the other. Much attention is also given to physical training, woodworking, music and domestic science by teachers especially trained for these subjects.

The real hope of the defective child is to be placed in the training which he receives in the use of his hands because it is only by his hands that he is ever going to be useful either in the community or in the institution. This important phase of our educational system has been fully recognized and has been met during the year in a most practical manner by the opening of the two new industrial buildings, one for each sex. The realization of these buildings has made it possible to gather up the various industrial activities which were scattered over the institution in improvised quarters and house them in appropriate buildings and thereby give this important part of our educational curriculum the proper supervision. The improvement in this department is already noticeable.

Another important event in the development of the institution took place during the year in the addition to the plant of the new Assembly Hall. This building comprises an attractive auditorium of 1100 seats, a large, well equipped stage with convenient dressing rooms, a first class moving picture machine with booth and curtain. In the light, airy basement are accommodated well furnished, attractive club rooms for the employees, consisting of a general lounge, ladies' room, pool room, 2 bowling alleys, smoking room, a store and a refreshment room. This building furnishes a social centre for the whole institution, — children and employees alike, with the consequent social betterment and increased happiness for all.

The desire for social recreation in young people is a dominant one and must be gratified in a normal, wholesome manner. We aim to do this by providing weekly parties in the dormitories, moving pictures, dances, general parties in the Assembly Hall, picnics, birthday parties, hikes and dramatic plays of which several are given by the children during the year.

The farm continues to be the most valuable school activity for our boys, not only in the useful knowledge there obtained, but also in the quantities of fresh produce of real value furnished by the farm.

The removal of the few adult male defective delinquents from the school has been followed by improvement in morale, happiness and general well-being in the boys' departments quite out of proportion to the few in number removed from the school. The adult women of this class however, as well as those under seventeen years of age of both sexes, still constitute a great menace to the institution. The presence in the institution of the comparatively small number of this class provides

a constant factor opposed to the advancement and happiness of the large numbers of the feeble-minded for whom the institution was created.

Through the conscientious, skillful efforts of our social service workers, commendable progress has been made in the adjustment in the community of carefully selected boys and girls who have been trained in the institution.

The regular clinics at the institution and the established school clinics in the various cities and towns are proving to be convenient avenues through which the specialized resources of the institution are easily made available to the community.

The recognition by the authorities of a wage scale for ward service that approximates a commensurate amount and which was made operative in July is especially noteworthy inasmuch as it has resulted for the first time in this institution in securing a suitable number of employees for this important branch of the service.

The following improvements have been carried through to completion; five hundred feet of concrete steam tunnel has been built and the old pipe replaced with new, all thoroughly insulated with magnesia covering which, in turn, is secured and protected with a covering of heavy roofing paper. Three new wells have been connected with the water system which will insure an adequate supply of water even though the water requirements should be considerably increased in the future.

The need for more school rooms has been met by dividing the 2 large rooms in the school building, thereby providing two additional rooms.

The Brightman House has been thoroughly renovated and repaired inside and outside and modern heating, plumbing and lighting systems installed.

The modern horse stables and dairy barns have been completed and are now being utilized.

The enlargement of the sewage filtration system has been started. For providing the labor for this work we are indebted to the Trustees and Superintendent of the Medfield State Hospital. In the construction of a filtration plant, a model just finished for their hospital, they succeeded in building up a wonderfully competent working force of patients under the direction of skillful employees. This trained institution force they have kindly placed at the service of this institution to build the required number of sewer beds.

I wish hereby to acknowledge the receipt of many gifts to the children during the year and especially do I wish to assure the manager of Paragon Park of the pleasure given our children by his kindness in providing the parties free passes to the Park and also to the friends of our children who remembered them so generously at Christmas time.

To all loyal employees who have so ably assisted me in bringing to a realization your high ideals towards our children, I am deeply indebted and to you, individually, I wish to express my gratitude for your untiring interest, your wisdom, and your readiness with counsel and advice at all times.

For details of the dental, school, social service and school clinic departments, I refer you to the reports of the heads of these departments submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE L. WALLACE, *Superintendent.*

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you the annual report of the school department for the year ending November 30, 1923.

During the past year the school work has progressed satisfactorily. In the training classes, where we begin work with the low grade children, we give much time to the training of the senses: hearing, smelling, seeing, feeling and touching. A great deal of the simplest gymnastic work is done here and the children are also taught to dress and undress themselves. We have advanced this year a considerable number of these pupils to the kindergarten classes.

The kindergarten serves as the medium between the training classes and formal school work. Many of the training room activities already familiar to the pupils are continued in this room; such as, color work, sewing cards and weaving, etc.

Active work in the Froebel games and rhythmic gifts are used as a basis for primary work. The various seasons of the year are marked by means of special appropriate parties. These are eagerly looked forward to and greatly enjoyed.

The pupils of the intermediate classes have carried on the usual schedule of work. In addition to this the boys have done excellent vellum work, supplying the institution with portfolios, scrap-books and desk-blotter pads, while the girls keep the library books in repair, and make and trim the costumes for the plays and entertainments of the school year. These classes also keep the school building supplied with decorative mottoes and charts.

The Domestic Science classes have gone on as usual. Here the girls are taught the fundamental principles of housekeeping and cookery.

The physical training classes are of great importance in the development of the pupils of all grades in the institution. In the gymnasiums the usual work is done; calisthenics, apparatus work, marching, games, folk, æsthetic and social dancing. The pupils of these classes are expected frequently to provide entertainments in the assembly hall, and for the parties in the various cottages. In addition to the regular gymnasium work the physical training teachers spend some time daily in the cottages among the low grade children who cannot come to classes in the school building.

The work of the music department gives much pleasure to both children and employees. In this department provision is made for classes in vocal music for both boys and girls; also classes in piano and the various instruments of the band and orchestra. Once a week we have a large choral class including all the school children. We have a Glee Club for the girls and a joint Glee Club for girls and boys. The choir of thirty voices provides excellent music for the religious services on Sunday. The band and orchestra furnish music for dances, entertainments and parties.

The woodworking rooms provide a legitimate outlet for energies of many a troublesome boy. Here he is able to create, to actually see a model grow because of his own efforts. The smaller boys use the coping saw almost entirely. They make toys, plant sticks and similar models usually from cigar boxes or packing case wood. The older boys make plant stands, small tables, toys such as rocking horses, kiddy cars and wheelbarrows, book ends, necktie holders and pen trays.

The victrola records and library books have been cared for as usual in the school department. By the use of these two circulating libraries each cottage is amply supplied with both books and records.

The Social Calendar for the past year has been very full, with many plays, entertainments, dances and parties. But the chief event was the opening of our fine new Assembly Hall in February. The school department for this occasion gave a very creditable performance of a Chinese operetta, "The Feast of the Little Lanterns."

The Christmas season, as usual, was filled with activities and gayeties. On Christmas Eve there was a gift laden tree in each beautifully decorated dormitory, and Santa Claus visited each one and distributed candy and gifts. The other holidays throughout the year were marked with appropriate exercises.

On fourth of July our annual one ring circus was held in which 275 children took part. In the afternoon the usual program of field sports was held and a display of fireworks in the evening finished the day.

During the summer months the playground teachers visit each group of children daily. In the day time the smaller children are taken in groups to their several playgrounds and ring games, singing games, ball games, etc., are played.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD, *Head Teacher.*

DENTAL REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1923.

Examinations, 1,211	Local anæsthesia, 224
Treatment of stomatitis, 144 ¹	Porcelain crowns, 1
Extractions permanent, 342	Porcelain crowns re-set, 4
Extractions deciduous, 293	Gold crowns, 4
Pulp treatment permanent, 274	Bridges, 8
Pulp treatment deciduous, 10	Bridges repaired, 2
Fillings permanent, 1,785	Vulcanite dentures, 7
Fillings deciduous, 129	Vulcanite dentures repaired, 12
Prophylactic treatment, 1,117	Ground teeth, 13
Silver reduction treatment, 293	Total patients, 2,226
Treatment erupting teeth, 29	New patients, 246
Post extraction treatment, 186	Dismissals, 943
Radiographs, 163	Total operating hours, 1,451
Gold inlays, 7	Laboratory hours, 72

¹ All mouth lesions included under this heading, except those arising from pulpal or pericemental disturbances.

I am glad to again be able to say that our efforts towards the improvement of the condition of the children's teeth especially through prevention, have in no way diminished; we can assure ourselves for this reason that one great path for the progress of disease in our little community is being gradually narrowed, and we hope that "detours" will eventually be in order.

Our attitude in this matter is in harmony with that of other progressive communities, where during the past few years, the question of bad teeth in relation to the general health, has been discussed earnestly not only by members of the medical and dental professions, but also by the people generally; while focal infection is a theory not scientifically proven, yet its soundness is supported by a mass of clinical evidence from a variety of authoritative sources.

It is universally conceded, however, that the presence of pus in any part of the body is never productive of good, and that consequently it is an entirely rational procedure, and therefore our duty to minimize, as far as lies in our power, all predisposition to infection. This corresponds to our idea of prevention.

The bacterial plaques found upon the surfaces of unclean teeth have been found to be foci for dental caries which, without doubt, even in this enlightened period, is the most common of all diseases, and the forerunner of ailments frequently more irremediable and painful. Yet dental caries is largely preventable by proper attention to diet and oral hygiene, our greatest bulwarks against this unsightly affliction. The bacterial plaque is also the predisposing factor in calculus formation, the opening wedge for further bacterial invasion, always preliminary to periodontal disease.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Merrill Champion of the Department of Public Health, we have been able to avail ourselves of a pleasing as well as a powerful means of furthering our little campaign of dental education here, namely the motion picture. Two single reel films were shown during the month of November; one entitled "Guarding your Pearls", and the other entitled, "Mouth Hygiene." Both were viewed with interest and enthusiasm, and I am sure produced practical results, because I feel the pictures proved instructive, not only to the children, but also to the attendants who look after the children's teeth.

In addition to the films we received about twenty large placards upon which were printed "catchy" dental slogans; these were placed in the various class-rooms of the school for about ten days. For the future we have reserved an exhibit on "Caring for the Teeth," available in February, and a series of posters which are reproductions of the mouth hygiene slides. All these have a decidedly persuasive value and aid materially in clinching our arguments.

I might say here that the campaign of education carried on by our State Depart-

ment of Public Health in the interest of prevention of dental disease is the hope of the future; Massachusetts is unexcelled, I know, in the number of public dental clinics.

This year I made my visits to the various buildings for examination for clean teeth awards, unannounced. I did this to determine if possible, whether immediate preparation or rather lack of it, made much difference in the appearance of the teeth. I wanted to see them "as is", and I am pleased to say that they showed up pretty well.

Seven hundred girls and three hundred twenty-two boys are entitled to clean teeth awards for the past year. The award is a button having a bronze background with suitable inscription in purple, each button carrying a short purple ribbon. These will be given out in January 1924.

The same system of following up cases of unclean teeth is still adhered to. The attention not only of the dentist, but also of physician, matron and attendant being focussed on any backslider must impress him with the seriousness of his neglect and act as a stimulus to renewed effort, and in some cases I have noticed that not only the teeth begin to look better, but the general appearance and even deportment improve.

I find the teeth of newly admitted children, in the main poor, frequently showing evidence of utter lack of care. It is frequently quite difficult to reach the point where restorative treatment can be started in those children who have never visited a dentist. They are generally apprehensive and slowly submit to treatment of any sort. In a great many cases they express gratitude for the service rendered them when they are dismissed. New children are not compelled to wait for the annual awarding of the clean teeth buttons should they merit it sooner, and they are also given the award for the previous year if their teeth were clean on first examination, as a recognition of their efforts before coming to the school.

The work of prosthetic restoration is carried on regularly although the bulk of time is devoted to operative work. A list of those requiring artificial dentures, crown and bridge restoration is kept and checked as the cases are completed. These patients are then placed on the observation list, and are called again generally in a week or two in order to eliminate possible causes of irritation and thus help the patient to wear the appliance with comfort and efficiency.

The radiograph is used frequently, especially in the treatment of root canals, for checking up the fillings. Its many uses in dentistry have made it a necessity not conveniently dispensed with. All radiographs are filed alphabetically for reference.

Our waiting room is supplied regularly with games and pictorial magazines which are gratefully received and utilized fully by the children while awaiting treatment.

In closing I want to thank the Superintendent and physicians of the staff for their genial co-operation, and I congratulate the matrons in charge of the various buildings for the results shown by their efforts on behalf of clean teeth.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. NASH, D.M.D.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1923.

One view of the work done by the Social Service Department during the past year may be obtained by considering the matter from a statistical standpoint. November 30, 1923, there were 87 girls and 56 boys on parole in the community. During the year 24 girls and 14 boys have been placed, either in the homes of relatives or of employers. The majority are gainfully employed. The girls employed in the homes as helpers, earn from \$4 to \$7 per week and board. Those working in factories, laundries, etc., earn from \$7 to \$18 per week. The boys are earning

from \$12 to \$25 per week in factories, on delivery trucks, etc. Deposits of individual savings in banks range from \$10 to \$100 for the year. These figures are not startling but they reflect an amount of expended effort, realized ambition and happiness attained which can be only approximately measured by those familiar with the problems of adjustment in the community by the mentally handicapped.

The actual placement of children in the community with special attention to the matters of employment, home and recreation, has been accomplished only after the preliminary investigations of the social workers, through interviews with agencies, prospective employers, relatives and friends, whose help in supervision is enlisted. The successful placement of the carefully selected child in the carefully selected home has been possible only through the advice and co-operation of the Trustees, Superintendent and Staff. Their interest and help in the work are most gratefully acknowledged.

One hundred and nineteen investigations, involving 415 visits to relatives, agencies, etc. have been made during the year. The purposes of the investigations have been to gather information concerning home and social conditions, concerning matters of employment, recreation and supervision, in order that proper placement might be made directly from the school, or that extension of vacation into indefinite parole might be arranged.

During the summer 45 investigations of homes or relatives requesting vacations for the children were made. Particularly, in the cases of adolescent girls or in cases where the physicians deemed special instructions to relatives advisable, have these preliminary visits been made.

After the actual placement of the child from the School comes the important matter of supervision. This is accomplished in two ways, — by the co-operation of employers, relatives and agencies who have been instructed as to the difficulties which may arise in particular cases, with suggestions as to the best ways of meeting such occasions, — and by the direct supervision from the school. The sympathetic, intelligent care given the children by employers and other interested individuals is of first importance. The motherly woman, with children of her own, who will undertake the care of a girl from the school is usually successful in accomplishing the girl's protection, as well as offering her the opportunity for self improvement and happiness.

The direct supervision by the school is carried on by means of visits to the children, by their personal reports at the school, by frequent written reports from employers and relatives and by personal correspondence between children and social service workers. Visits to the children in all sections of the state are made possible by the use of a Ford coupé, used in turn by the two social service workers. Transportation of patients and bits of personal service are also made possible by the use of the car. These forms of supervision, together with the occasional furnishing of recreation, are among the most enjoyable phases of the visitor's work. The friendly visits to patients with opportunities of seeing and sharing their home life, the occasional opportunity for providing some simple recreation possible at difficult, critical periods of the child's adjustment are enjoyable and valuable ways of exerting supervision. 475 such visits have been made during the year by the two workers. The quantity and quality of the work done has been due in high degree to the willing, conscientious service of Miss Hawley P. Foster, assistant social worker.

Contact with outside workers and leaders in the field of social work has been made through monthly conferences of State Hospital Social Workers, informal group conferences with the Director of Social Work in the State Department, attendance at the annual conference of State Social Workers and attendance at lectures on mental hygiene at Boston University. A paper, "Observations on the Placement and Supervision of Mental Defectives in the Community" was presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE RAYMOND, *Head Social Worker.*

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXAMINER'S REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1923.

The School Clinic has carried on this work for three years and is now working for the fourth year in the district assigned.

Looking backward and recalling our first contact in the different places in which we work, then comparing conditions as met during our last visits, it is gratifying to see a greater interest in a larger conception of the problems and a real attempt to meet the standards that modern educational methods demand for the backward and mentally deficient child, that he may be trained to lead a useful life in the community, obviating a residence and course of training in an institution.

Comprehensive plans and programs have been made in a number of places to train these pupils, their fulfillment delayed only by lack of funds. With the increasing interest in mental hygiene, and especially in those principles relating to the care and training of the feeble minded, as well as to the prevention of mental deficiency and delinquency, each community will surely, before long, more adequately meet these problems.

As yet, there is a surprisingly large number of people in the average community, who do not appreciate the real meaning of mental defect, and do not understand that a child may be 16 years old, chronologically, with a mental rating of 8, 6, or even lower, and that no more can be expected of that boy or girl than a normal child whose physical and mental ages are 8 years, more or less.

Most of the pupils presented for examination are selected by the teacher, because from her judgment they are slow, backward, and not doing the required work. Group testing is being more widely used in classifying and grading children in the public schools. These tests show the large number of average pupils, as well as those who are exceptional because above, or below, the average. They also show those who are doing the best they can, as well as those who are not using their powers to their fullest capacity.

A wider application of this form of examination will do away with the placement of pupils in school grades, two, three, or more years above the grade work of which they are capable and understand. We are striving to examine the pupils in the entering and primary classes, those who early show inability to grasp the first principles of education, and to do the work corresponding to their chronological age.

The questions then asked: "Is he mentally equal to the task of the 1st year?" — "Will he require a 2nd, or 3rd year to complete the work of the grade? If so, what are his difficulties and how can they be met, before he finally becomes discouraged because of his many failures?"

The right grouping early we feel will help many slow pupils to obtain a better understanding of the fundamentals, with less of a handicap and more rapid advance later. The special class with its smaller number of pupils and more individual attention, supplies the need to many of these retarded children.

SUMMARY OF WORK IN OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT FROM DEC. 1, 1922 TO NOV. 30, 1923

No. of Towns visited	No. examined in Each Town.
1. Quincy	7
2. Chelsea	233
3. Attleboro	132
4. Dedham	48
5. North Attleboro	12
6. Franklin	15
7. Brockton	121
8. Winthrop	17
9. Number brought to school	17
Total	602

<i>Distribution of Cases according to Intelligence Quotient:</i>	Number	P.D. 78. Per Cent
Above 90	15	3
Between 80-89	77	13
Between 70-79	203	33
Between 60-69	212	35
Between 50-59	56	9
Below 50	28	5
Cases having no psychological	11	2

Results of Investigations:

Delinquents, 45. Of these 11 have court record.

Institutional type, 64. Of these 15 have been admitted to the Wrentham State

School. 5 of these were examined in the previous year.

Social Problems, 58.

Language difficulty, sufficient to cause retardation, 55.

Physical Defects:

General health needs improvement, 27.

Defective eyes need oculist's attention, 70.

Ptosis of 2 eyelids.

Defective teeth need dentist's attention, 88.

Hutchinson teeth, 4.

Defective ears — Darwinian Tubercle, 13.

Discharging, 14.

Diminished hearing, 29.

Enlarged tonsils, 89.

Adenoids, 39.

Underweight (10 or more lbs.), 53.

Overweight (10 or more lbs.), 48.

Heart Lesion, 2.

Palpable thyroid, 52.

Hydrocephalic tendency, 20.

Microcephalic tendency, 4.

Mongolian tendency, 2.

Epileptic, 4; Spinal defect, 4; Neurotic, 3; Psychotic, 3; Speech defect, 21;

Spasticity, 4; Hip joint disease, 1.

Recommendations:

For special class, 121; for average class, 232; Re-examine in 1 year, 96;

For non-English class, 2; For sight-saving class, 1; For fresh air class, 4.

Number of Cases re-examined, 94:

Number improved, 73.

Habit formation is also one of the advantages of this group, especially that of continued application until the task is completed, giving the slow pupil time enough. Also the training of the hands, physical education, together with academic work.

After studying the child and a diagnosis made, a certain number of cases require social supervision and follow up work. The teacher is unable to give this, although many do keep in touch with their children in the home and community life. In special cases they cannot meet the situation because of the many demands on their time. Valuable aid, I am sure, will be given the clinic by social workers engaged for the supervision of the mentally handicapped in the community. These children should not be left to their fate without intelligent oversight, but should be helped to adjust themselves, body and soul, to the utmost of their capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Commissioner of Mental Diseases.

I respectfully submit the following report of the finances of this institution for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1923.

CASH ACCOUNT.

Balance December 1, 1922 \$8,839 34

*Income.**Receipts.*

Board of inmates:

Private \$855 73
Reimbursements, insane 2,038 66

\$2,894 39

Personal services:

Reimbursement from Board of Retirement . . . 108 79

Sales:

Food \$23 70
Clothing and materials 245 39
Furnishings and household supplies . . . 31 48
Medical and general care 23 82

Farm:

Cows and calves \$234 64
Hides 9 53
Wood 310 00
Sundries 29 30

583 47

Garage, stable and grounds 25
Repairs, ordinary 127 70

1,035 81

Miscellaneous:

Interest on bank balances \$360 32
Rent 96 00
Sundries 1,609 65

2,065 97

6,104 96

Other receipts:

Refunds of previous year \$179 16
Return of wages unclaimed 5 25

184 41

Receipts from Treasury of Commonwealth.

Maintenance appropriations:

Balance of 1922 \$17,592 00
Advance money (Amount on hand Nov. 30) . . . 22,000 00
Approved schedules of 1923, cash received from State
Treasurer 430,994 25

470,586 25

Special appropriations:

Balance of 1922 \$8,942 23
Approved schedules of 1923, cash received from State
Treasurer 48,722 71

57,664 94

Total, \$543,379 90

Payments.

To treasury of Commonwealth:

Institution income \$6,104 96
Refunds on account of maintenance 67 33
Refunds of previous year 179 16
Return of wages unclaimed 5 25

\$6,356 70

Maintenance appropriations:

November Schedule	\$49,592 00
Less advances	20,041 65

Balance of schedules of previous year	\$29,550 35
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Approved schedules of 1923	\$430,994 25
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Less returned	67 33
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November advances	430,926 92
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November advances	10,238 47
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	\$470,715 74
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Special appropriations:

Balance of schedules of previous year	\$8,942 23
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Approved schedules of 1923,	\$48,722 71
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Less advances, last year's report	3,119 01
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	45,603 70
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November advances	54 55
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October advances	78 89
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	54,679 37
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Balance November 30, 1923

In bank \$10,011 15	
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In office 1,616 94	
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	11,628 09
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Total	\$543,379 90
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MAINTENANCE.

Balance from previous year, brought forward	\$1,103 98
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Appropriation, current year, \$445,870.28; transfer, \$28,800	474,670 28
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Total	\$475,774 26
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Expenses (as analyzed below)	470,046 21
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Balance reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth	\$5,728 05
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Analysis of Expenses.

Personal services	\$172,844 25
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Religious instruction	1,200 00
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Travel, transportation and office expenses	7,410 09
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Food	99,699 50
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Clothing and materials	23,981 11
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Furnishings and household supplies	25,580 58
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Medical and general care	9,452 38
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Heat, light and power	65,257 07
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Farm	20,562 88
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Garage, stable and grounds	6,602 73
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Repairs, ordinary	19,983 67
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Repairs and renewals	17,471 95
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	\$470,046 21
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SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Balance December 1, 1922	\$59,110 21
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Appropriations for current year	45,000 00
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Total	\$104,110 21
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Expended during the year (see statement below)	\$51,498 84
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Reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth	138 92
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Balance November 30, 1923, carried to next year	51,637 76
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	\$52,472 45
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OBJECT.	Act or Resolve.	Whole Amount.	Expended during Fiscal Year.	Total expended to Date.	Balance at End of Year.
Purchase of land (balance reappropriated).	1922, chap. 129	\$230 00	-	-	\$230 00
Purchase of Brightman property	1919, chap. 242	8,000 00	-	\$1,339 95	6,660 04
Girls' Industrial building	1920, chap. 225	55,000 00	\$3,489 67	54,960 00	40 00*
Cold storage plant	1920, chap. 225	55,000 00	612 00	54,964 03	35 97*
Assembly hall	1921, chap. 203	94,000 00	19,395 55	93,997 11	2 89*
Barn	1921, chap. 203	25,000 00	10,418 76	24,939 94	60 06*
Boys' industrial building	1922, chap. 129	40,000 00	{ 48 31 ¹ 16,433 19	{ 48 31 ¹ 38,268 78	{ 1,682 91
Storehouse	1923, chap. 126	35,000 00	-	-	35,000 00
Sewer beds (see item 485, chap. 126, Acts 1923).	{ 1922, chap. 129 1923, chap. 126	{ 86 10,000 00	{ 56 49 ¹ 1,044 87	{ 56 49 1,044 87	{ 8,899 50
		\$322,230 86	\$51,498 84	\$269,619 49	\$52,611 37
*Balance reverting to treasury of the Commonwealth					\$138 92
Balance carried to next year					52,472 45
Total as above					\$52,611 37

¹ Dec. 12.

RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES.

Resources.

Cash on hand	\$11,628 09
Due from treasury of Commonwealth from available appropriation account November, 1923, schedule	10,238 47
Special appropriations	133 44
	<hr/>
	\$22,000 00

Liabilities.

Outstanding schedules of current year:	
Amount owing to State Treasurer on advance	\$22,000 00

PER CAPITA.

During the year the average number of inmates has been, 1,228.66.
 Total cost for maintenance, \$470,046.21.
 Equal to a weekly per capita cost of \$7.3570.
 Receipt from sales, \$1,035.81.
 Equal to a weekly per capita of \$0.0162.
 All other institution receipts, \$5,069.15.
 Equal to a weekly per capita of \$0.0793.
 Net weekly per capita \$7.2615.

Respectfully submitted,

SARA M. CLAYLAND,
Treasurer.

Examined and found correct as compared with the records in the office of the Comptroller.

JAMES C. McCORMICK,
Comptroller.

VALUATION

Nov. 30, 1923.

REAL ESTATE.

Land (590 acres)	\$18,223 50
Buildings	1,181,233 29

\$1,199,456 79

PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Travel, Transportation and Office Supplies	\$4,220 30
Food	23,225 97
Clothing and Materials	29,256 46
Furnishings and Household Supplies	117,890 68
Medical and General Care	10,997 12
Heat, Light and Power	22,564 22
Farm	20,986 24
Garage, Stable and Grounds	5,636 44
Repairs	7,551 73

\$242,329 16

SUMMARY.

Real Estate	\$1,199,456 79
Personal Property	242,329 16

\$1,441,785 95